

STATE SENATOR • JIM BARCIA • 31ST DISTRICT

Barcia Press Release

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SEN. BARCIA BACKS LEGISLATION TO BETTER MANAGE FARM ODOR AND MANURE

LANSING -- Senator Jim Barcia (D-Bay City) today announced his co-sponsorship of bipartisan legislation that will provide tax breaks for farmers who implement technology to help control odor and manage manure.

The three-bill package will also create a funding mechanism and establish a fair rate for the unused energy generated by the waste which is then sold to electric companies. Sen. Barcia co-sponsored the bills, introduced by Sen. Cameron Brown (R-Sturgis) today in the Senate.

“This legislation provides relief for area residents by alleviating the heavy odors that can be associated with farm operations,” Barcia said. “In addition, these bills promote alternative energy sources that are environmentally sound. It’s a solution where everyone wins.”

The primary component of the technology is a methane digester which processes animal waste and converts it to methane gas that can be used to generate electricity on the farm or sold to utility companies as a substitute for traditional energy sources. The output is a solid and a low pathogen liquid, both of which can be used as nutrients on farm land. Digesters also reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce seepage and runoff, benefiting both small and large farms.

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Sen. Barcia represents Senate District 31, including Arenac, Bay, Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola counties. He is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee where he serves as vice chair of the subcommittees on Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Natural Resources, and Transportation.